

2026 Creation Care Grants Application Guide

Episcopal Church Creation Care is pleased to announce the availability of grant funds to support local and regional eco-ministry efforts. Authorized by the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church, these grant funds will be awarded by committees from each eco-region network. However, your diocese does not have to be in an eco-region network to apply, and no preference will be given to programs associated with eco-region networks.

Please read about each eco-region network and its priorities [here](#). If you are not in an eco-region network, your application will be reviewed either by a geographic neighbor or an affinity partner.

Only Episcopal Church institutions (parishes, dioceses, eco-region networks, provinces, schools, seminaries, monastic communities, Episcopal organizations, and other Episcopal-affiliated entities) are eligible to receive these funds. Partnerships with non-Episcopal entities, including ecumenical and interfaith partnerships, are welcome and encouraged, but an Episcopal Church entity must serve as the recipient of the funds, project leader, active manager, and reporting agent.

The following will not be considered for funding: applications not supported by an Episcopal entity or that do not actively engage The Episcopal Church; capital projects (such as solar panels or updated parish building infrastructure). Questions about potential projects can be directed to Amanda Fulton, coordinator for justice initiatives, at afulton@episcopalchurch.org.

The deadline to submit your proposal is 11:59 p.m. ET on Oct. 20, 2026. Applicants will be notified about their status in November.

You can find a list of FAQs and answers below.

Committees reviewing the project proposals will evaluate them based on the following criteria:

- Alignment with priorities listed above.
- Proposal includes understanding of local issues and context.
- Goals for the project are clearly described and thoroughly documented.
- Proposal includes methods to evaluate the development and impact of the project (this could include surveys, participant interviews, collecting and tracking metrics).
- Detailed budget is complete and contains all required information. Budget is cost-effective and linked to activities and outcomes.
- Timeline is clear, matches project description, and shows specific proposed outcomes with lasting impact.
- Documentation was received on time and is complete.
- Project proactively works to reduce duplication or overlap of services. Applicant is engaged in dialogue with other organizations doing similar work.
- There is strategic and meaningful involvement and feedback from the people who would benefit from the project.

2026 Creation Care Grant FAQs

Could an Episcopal entity partner with an organization or congregation in another country?

Episcopal entities in any Episcopal diocese are eligible to apply. They can apply in partnership with other organizations or congregations internationally, as long as the Episcopal entity will play an active role in the grant project, receive the funds, and be responsible for the financial report upon expenditure of grant funds.

Can a task force or committee apply for this grant?

Yes, but the grant funds would need to be distributed by a congregation, diocese, or province.

Do I need to be in an eco-region network to apply?

No – Episcopal entities in any Episcopal diocese are eligible to apply.

Who will review my application?

Your grant application will be reviewed by a diverse committee made up of leaders, practitioners, and volunteers from each eco-region network. Each eco-region network has its own grant committee and will review all applications from dioceses within its region. Applicants from dioceses outside of eco-region networks may be reviewed either by the eco-region network geographically closest to them, or by an eco-region network whose stated priorities match the objectives of the application.

What approval do we need from our diocese?

You need to request a letter of support from your diocesan bishop and attach that letter to your application before submitting. If your diocesan bishop is on leave or in transition, you can contact Amanda Fulton (creation@episcopalchurch.org) to discuss alternatives.

Are partnerships required? Who can you partner with?

Yes. Partnerships are important to the success of a project and its broader impact beyond. Your partnership can be with another parish or house of worship, a community organization, civic group, local business, etc.

What are “matching funds”?

Proposals must show significant financial or in-kind support provided by the applying entity, partner organizations, diocese, or other supporters (other grants, individual donors, etc.). This does not need to be a dollar-for-dollar match for the amount of money that you are requesting, but it is an important way to show support for your effort.

What is in-kind support? How can you quantify that?

In-kind support is non-monetary resources contributed to your project, which could include the use of buildings or other physical spaces, volunteer labor, supplies or materials, professional expertise, etc. Please be as specific as possible about the in-kind support your project will receive.

What is a diocesan assessment/diocesan waiver?

Each diocese of the Episcopal Church has an assessment that it must pay to the church-wide office (legally called the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society or DFMS) or apply for and receive a waiver. If a diocese does not make their assessment or receive a waiver, applicants from that diocese shall be ineligible to receive grants or loans from the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society unless approved by Executive Council. [See Canon I.4.6, Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church.](#)

Can I apply for a church garden project?

Grant funds cannot be used to fund the creation of a garden. However, your project can include gardening or farm efforts, and can incorporate gardening or farming into broader formation, advocacy, or other projects.

What are the reporting requirements?

An interim grant report must be completed six months after grant funds are distributed. A final grant report and financial accounting are due one year after funds are distributed. You should plan your grant project such that the granted funds can be spent within one year. This could look like the completion of a shorter-term project or significant progress made towards an ongoing project.

What is the time frame for hearing back about our application?

Once the grant application closes, the grants committee of each eco-region network will review the applications over 2-3 weeks. All applicants will be notified at the same time at the end of the second round of review, likely in November of 2026. Grant funds will be distributed shortly thereafter.

The application information below is for reference only. All grant applications must be submitted via the form [here](#).

Standard Grant Information

Please fill out each section of this grant application to the best of your ability.

Episcopal Applicant:

Type of institution:

e.g., diocese, congregation, ministry, eco-region network, etc.

Primary Contact

Name:

Primary contact must be available via email throughout the application process and project.

Phone:

Email:

Secondary Contact

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Site:

Address:

Phone:

Diocese(s):

Diocesan Bishop(s):

Project Description

Name of project:

Provide brief background information of the entity/entities applying, including any partner organizations:

Provide brief bios of key project personnel:

Describe the project and what you hope to accomplish. What are the local and contextual issues this project addresses?

Describe this project's intended impacts and outcomes. What does success look like, and how will it be measured?

What impact does this project have on individual members of your parish and/or diocese? How can people get involved?

Who is leading and/or making decisions about the project? Who will be most affected by your project, and how are they involved?

Project Description: Funding Details

Amount Requested:

(\$15,000 maximum, though most awards will likely be for projects \$10,000 and under)

What other sources of funding, supplies, resources, and expertise will you utilize on this project?

If you are not in an eco-region network, do you have a preference on which eco-region network should review your application?

Have you received funding from the Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation or any other funding through The Episcopal Church in the past five years (e.g., United Thank Offering, Mission Enterprise Zone, church planting, Becoming Beloved Community, or others)?

If so, when? What project? How much? Please include the name of the funding provider.

Acknowledgement of Criteria

Applicant understands that should its local diocese fail to pay its assessment in full or to apply for and receive a waiver, the diocese and the applicant shall be ineligible to receive grants or loans from the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society unless approved by Executive Council in accordance with Canon I.4.6.

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Yes, I/we have read and accept the above requirements.

Conflicts of Interest

All grant reviewers will be required to recuse themselves from reviewing grants from applicants with whom the reviewer has close personal, financial, or organizational relationships. This includes making final decisions for distribution of grant funds.

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I have acknowledged, read, and agree to the Conflict of Interest statement.

Supporting Documents

Important Note: Files must be uploaded immediately before the submission of your application. Files cannot be saved and submitted later.

Letter of Support from Diocesan Bishop

This grant requires the support of your diocesan bishop. Please provide a letter of support from your bishop. If your bishop is on leave or the diocese is experiencing a leadership transition, please contact Amanda Fulton at afulton@episcopalchurch.org for instructions.

Budget

Please provide a detailed budget that indicates any additional sources of funding, in-kind contributions, and intended use of grant fund.

Project Timeline

Please provide a detailed timeline with your start and end dates, approximate dates for all important events, completion deadlines for project stages, and when you will evaluate project progress and impact.

Letter of Partnership

Please provide a letter of partnership from intended project partners. Letter(s) should include a history of the partnership and a vision for collaboration on the granted project.

Resolution Establishing Equity in the Awarding of TEC Grants

In accordance with GC2022 Resolution D006, all Episcopal Church offices and interim bodies that administer grants must make “diligent efforts to award a significant percentage of grants to congregations and communities of color.” In order that the granting body can report back who has been awarded grants and how they are serving or plan to serve communities of color, please respond to the questions below.

Current congregational or organizational community

When answering the following questions, please consider your congregation or organization in a broad sense. For example, a congregation can include the people who use your space as opposed to solely the people who are there on Sunday mornings (i.e. 12-step meetings, food bank participants, support groups, community choirs, etc.). To the best of your ability, please tell us how this grant will serve your current congregational or organizational communities by filling in the number and percentage that are in each of the following racial/ethnic categories. Please note: these percentages may total over 100 because people can belong to more than one identity racial or ethnic group.

What percentage of your current community is:

Please tell us the number of people in your current community that identify with the following groups.

- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black or African Descent
- Hispanic or Latino
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- White
- Multiracial

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